

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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R 1917Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T STATE 079877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, IT, FR, UR

SUBJECT: US/USSR DETENTE; US/EC DECLARATION; FRENCH
ELECTIONS

1. IN APRIL 17 MEETING ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA ASKED
UNDER SECRETARY SISCO IF US DETECTED DIFFERENT SENSE OF
DETENTE IN SOVIETS. SISCO REPLIED THAT BASED ON
SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TALKS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH GROMYKO
HERE WE BELIEVE THAT MUTUAL INTEREST ON SUCH MATTERS AS A
PERMANENT SALT AGREEMENT REMAINS. SISCO SAID WE PROBABLY
CANNOT EXPECT A PERMANENT SALT AGREEMENT IN 1974 BUT NOTED
THAT THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE SOME US/USSR AGREEMENT BY THE
TIME OF ANY SUMMIT MEETING.

2. IN REPLY TO ORTONA'S QUERY, SISCO AFFIRMED THAT THE US
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POSTURE TOWARD A US-EUROPEAN DECLARATION REMAINS THE SAME;
THE EUROPEANS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, BEARING
IN MIND OUR VIEW ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF CONSULTATIONS.
ORTONA ASSERTED HE HAD SEEN SOME REPORT IN WHICH THE
PRESIDENT, IN PARIS FOR THE POMPIDOU FUNERAL, HAD TOLD
BRANDT HE WOULD GO TO EUROPE IF A US-EUROPEAN DECLARATION
WAS DEVELOPED. SISCO ANSWERED THAT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP
TO EUROPE WAS NOT EXCLUDED BEFORE ANY US-USSR SUMMIT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SISCO'S QUESTION CONCERNING THE
IMPENDING FRENCH ELECTIONS, ORTONA THOUGHT IT WAS DOWN TO
CHABAN-DELMAS AND MITTERAND BUT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS
FURTHER, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF WHO WOULD BE BETTER FOR
THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. ORTONA SAID MITTERAND IS BEING
PRO-ALLIANCE NOW, SINCE MANY IN FRANCE ARE TIRED OF THE
CONSTANT WRANGLING WITH THE US. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR
OBSERVED, MITTERAND IS ASTUTE AND WHAT HE MAY DO AFTER
THE ELECTIONS, IF HE WINS MAY BE DIFFERENT. ORTONA
NOTED THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TIME BETWEEN THE END OF
FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AN AGREEMENT ON A US-
EUROPEAN DECLARATION AND A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO WEST
EUROPE BEFORE THE MOSCOW MEETING. RUSH

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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